

SPANISH REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

Spain Gives no Direct Answer but Argues She Should Herself be Allowed to Propose Terms.

Washington, March 31.—Spain's official reply to President McKinley's latest demand in Cuban situation was received in Washington to-night. An anxious party, comprising most of the cabinet and several close friends of the administration, waited till late in the evening in expectation of developments. About half-past 10 the message began to come, in cipher, and the work of translation was begun at once. It was officially stated, however, that no intimation as to the nature of the reply could be divulged to-night.

Among those at the White House were Senator Hanna, Secretary Alger, Secretary Bliss, Assistant Secretary of State Day, who dined with the President; Assistant Secretary of State Adee, to whom was confided the translation of the message; Senator Spooner and Senator Aldrich. There was an intensely expectant crowd of newspaper correspondents, larger than often gathered at the White House at night, waiting in the lobby outside the President's office. But they were destined to disappointment, for after the telegraph instrument in the adjoining office had steadily clattered for half an hour, Mr. Porter, the President's secretary, appeared with the announcement from Secretary Day that it was impossible to translate the message in time to give out any statement to-night. The telegraph key was still clicking when the correspondents fled out, indicating that the message was at least quite lengthy.

The visitors gradually drifted out from the President's office till at midnight no one was left but Secretary Porter. He departed half an hour later, leaving only the telegraph operator and the transmitters struggling with the message.

Adjutant General Corbin came over from the war department at 12:30, but did not go to the White House. Meeting Secretary Porter at the door, the two walked home together. All those who had been with the President were reticent on leaving the executive mansion, most of them declaring they had not seen any of the translation of the cipher dispatch and that they had no idea of its purport.

New York, April 1.—A special dispatch from Washington to The World, dated 2-c-m., gives the following outline of Spain's reply to the note presented by Minister Woodford:

"Spain neither accedes to nor declines President McKinley's propositions."

"She makes counter argument that Spain should herself be allowed to propose terms as to what should be done regarding her own territory; that the United States should not do so."

Spanish Authorities to Give Them a Showing.

Washington, March 30.—The Spanish legation here late to-night received a cablegram from the governor general of Cuba saying that the captain general reported the pacification of the western provinces so far advanced that it had been decided to rescind the order in these provinces and allow all subjects of this decree to return to their homes in the country. To aid in the re-establishing of the reconcentrados upon their farms, the cablegram states the government will grant them protection of the Spanish military forces, augmented by local relief committees to look after their immediate needs. Economic kitchens, it says, are to be established to support the reconcentrados while waiting for their first crops to mature, and they are to be furnished farming implements and seeds by the government. To supply them ready money, such of them as are able will be given employment upon public works, and it is asserted by the authorities that these measures will result in the speedy rehabilitation of the rural communities in the western provinces.

This cablegram was not made public till more than an hour after midnight, and no official comment upon its significance could be secured.

FEAR FOR THE OREGON.

Washington, March 30.—Fearing an attempt on the part of Spain to destroy the battleship Oregon and the gunboat Marietta, which have been ordered to the North Atlantic Coast to re-enforce Captain W. T. Sampson's command, instructions will be sent to their commanding officers, directing them to adopt every precaution against attack. The decision to issue these instructions is the result of an official dispatch received from the diplomatic representative of this government in Uruguay, announcing that the torpedo boat Temerario of the Spanish navy had hurriedly left Montevideo, where she had been anchored for some time and had gone to sea. Her destination was unknown, but it is believed that she is under orders to lie in wait for the Oregon and Marietta and to cripple them if possible so that they cannot reach Key West.

Minister Woodford Expected a Surrender.

Hoped Spanish Government Would, of Own Accord, Make Proposal That Would be Satisfactory.

Washington, March 31.—President McKinley's assurances to congress in regard to the outlook for a settlement of the Cuban difficulty without a war between this country and Spain are based upon representation made to him by Minister Woodford.

Gen Woodford expresses the belief, after repeated conferences with Premier Sagasta and other members of the Spanish ministry, that after today's meeting of the Spanish cabinet that government will, of its own accord, make a proposition to this country looking to the definite settlement of the Cuban question. This proposition is expected to cover three points, as follows:

First—That Spain shall send the reconcentrados back to their homes and supply them with means of sustaining life until normal conditions can be restored.

Second—That there shall be an armistice between Spain and Cuba, with the end in view of securing a settlement of the difficulties and the withdrawal of the Spanish forces from Cuba.

Third—In case of a failure of the Cubans and Spaniards to come to an understanding during the armistice, Spain will submit the entire matter to President McKinley as arbitrator, with the understanding that he will decide in that event for the entire independence of Cuba.

Earthquake in California.

San Francisco, March 31.—The city and a portion of the State were shaken at 11:43 last night by the most severe earthquake experienced here since 1868 when several persons were killed. This time, however, no fatalities have been reported, although there were several narrow escapes. Vallejo and Mare Island suffered much damage. The naval hospital was wrecked, and the government saw mill blown down.

Work has been shut down in the navy yard temporarily, and the 1,700 employees are idle. Only two of the buildings escaped damage.

After the board of survey had made a partial examination of the state of affairs at the Mare Island navy yard to-day it was announced that the damage sustained by last night's tremble had been somewhat exaggerated. While the survey has not yet been completed the board is of the opinion that the damage will not exceed \$150,000. Work has, however, been discontinued and in all probability will not be resumed for several days.

The cruiser Charleston, which is in dry dock, did not sustain any material damage, although the bilge blocks upon which she rested were disturbed and will have to be reset. In Vallejo, nearby, the damage was widespread. The city hall, public schools and St. Vincent's schools suffered more than any others. Several small fires added to the excitement, five lamps being overturned in one house.

A report comes from Washington that the French Minister has been holding conferences with the Department of State with a view to mediation between this country and Spain in the matter of Cuba, and that this talk is "assuming tangible form." It has been heretofore intimated that Italy had offered her services as mediator, and that France had shown a disposition that way, and therefore this report from Washington does not come altogether as a surprise. None of the European Governments want to see war between this country and Spain, for none of them have anything to gain by it and some of them have much to lose. We have about \$1,200,000,000 worth of commerce with Europe. Most of it, or about \$1,000,000,000, with England, Germany and France. War would, of course, for the time being, at least, greatly interfere with, if it did not destroy, this commerce, and that is a sufficient reason why they do not desire war but, on the contrary, will advise Spain to seek peace, and will use whatever of moral suasion they may have with both powers to preserve the peace. The probability of any of these powers actively siding with Spain in the event this moral suasion fail is out of the question, for they all have enough to command their attention in the far East, where they have more vital interests at stake than they have in Spain. But aside from their commerce some of them have money interests in Spanish securities, which can be best taken care of by peace brought about by mediation and some plan, if possible, by which Spain will be permitted to retain sovereignty over the island of Cuba, upon which she has been so largely dependent for her revenues—a matter in which the Rothschilds and other European money lenders who hold Spain's securities are very much interested. This, aside from the commercial motive, is the main inspiration of the desire to mediate.—Wilmingon Star.

The Spanish People.

While justly indignant with Spanish officials and above all with the arrogant demagogues who seem to rule the luckless Iberian Peninsula, it is but just to extend the mantle of pity over the Spanish people. In the excitement which Spanish official arrogance has created scarcely any one has noticed the deplorable condition of that country itself. The population is steadily diminishing. In 1887 it was 17,500,000. To-day it is estimated at 16,000,000. In other words, it is diminishing in population more rapidly than any other civilized power. A steady stream of its young men emigrates each year to other countries. An enormous amount of territory is owned by the church, which each year becomes a greater burden upon the working classes.

Although many of the monasteries are falling into ruin and the nunneries are inhabited chiefly by the owl and the bat, there are still more than five hundred thousand people belonging to the church who are taken away from the producing classes of the community. The income of the nation as a whole has been gradually growing smaller. Thirty years ago it was estimated at \$1,200,000,000. Three years ago it was \$900,000,000 and last year it was only \$750,000,000. The government spent \$200,000,000 of this, so that only \$550,000,000 was left for the entire nation, a sum so small as to involve the pauperization of more than one-tenth of its citizens.

Illiteracy is about 69 per cent, and the death rate is about the highest in Europe. The Cuban and Philippine wars have cost the country what it could least afford to lose, its young men. Of these more than one hundred thousand have been killed and another hundred thousand taken away from the nation's productive industries. To this awful drain must be added the large standing army which must be supported to prevent a republican insurrection in the big cities, and a Carlist rebellion in the rural, and especially the mountain districts.

This army numbers 90,000, and if to it be added the police and other government officials, a total of 150,000, making a still greater burden upon the shoulders of the people. That there are riots every week is no wonder. The only wonder is that there is no revolution. The average wage in Barcelona is 40 cents per day and in the country districts 30 cents while, owing to the cruel taxation of the government and the more cruel speculation of the merchants, wheat is now \$2.80 a bushel. The national debt is far larger than that of the United States. As published by the government in December, the permanent debt was \$1,800,000,000, and the annual interest charge was over \$50,000,000. This, however, does not include miscellaneous indebtedness, arrears and defaulted payments. Of these the amount is not known, but must be very large. In Cuba alone it aggregates more than \$100,000,000, and in Spain is said to be still larger. So far as can be ascertained, the national debt of the country is now over \$2,000,000,000. The national resources are all pledged, and even doubly pledged, to foreign financial concerns, and the Treasury is but a short remove from irretrievable bankruptcy and ruin.

Under this terrible load the people, ignorant, poor and miserable, have maintained a courage and hopefulness altogether admirable. But so far as can be seen, there is little or no hope for Spain. If it goes to war it will be crushed, and if it does not go to war it will collapse. In either case the end will come to a civilization which has no longer a reason for its existence.—N. Y. Mail and Express.

Discovered by a Woman.

Another great discovery has been made, and that, too, by a lady in this country. "Disease fastened its clutches upon her and for seven years she withstood its severest tests, but her vital organs were undermined and death seemed imminent. For three months she coughed incessantly, and could not sleep. She finally discovered a way to recovery, by purchasing of us a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, and was so much relieved on taking first dose, that she slept all night; and with two bottles, has been absolutely cured. Her name is Mrs. Luther Lutz." Thus writes W. C. Hamrick & Co., of Shelby, N. C. Trial bottles free at J. F. W. DeLorme's Drug Store. Regular size 50c and \$1. Every bottle guaranteed.

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MOTHER! There is no word so full of meaning and about which such tender and holy recollections cluster as that of "MOTHER"—she who watched over our helpless infancy and guided our first tottering step. Yet the life of every Expectant Mother is beset with danger and all effort should be made to avoid it. so assists nature in the change-taking place that the Expectant Mother is enabled to look forward without dread, suffering or gloomy forebodings, to the hour when she experiences the joy of Motherhood. Its use insures safety to the lives of both Mother and Child, and she is found stronger after than before confinement—in short, it "makes Childbirth natural and easy," as so many have said. Don't be persuaded to use anything but

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Sodium Carbonate	893
Potassium Carbonate	274
Calcium Carbonate	571
Magnesium Carbonate	344
Iron Carbonate (Ferrous)	1,411
Manganese Carbonate	Trace
Copper Carbonate	Trace
Potassium Sulphate	641
Sodium Chloride	1,347
Alumina	Trace
Silica	2,391

Ammonia .02 parts per million. Aluminoid Ammonia .08 "

We have glowing testimonials from people all over the country, and from people in your own town among them the Rev. C. C. Brown, A. W. Crosswell, F. B. Grier, et al. If you are suffering, and want relief, and cure, come and see me. I am here to supply you this water, and take your orders, or to make arrangements with you for visiting the Spring, where ample accommodations are to be had, at low prices.

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Dec 15—3m

Claremont Lodge No. 64 A. F. M.

THE REGULAR MONTHLY COMMUNICATION of Claremont Lodge, No. 64, A. F. M., will be held on Thursday Evening, May 5, at 7 1/2 p. m. Brethren will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

L. S. CARSON, W. M. Attest—P. C. MORRIS, Sec.

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION.

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, SUMTER COUNTY.

OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR OF REGISTRATION, SUMTER COUNTY.

Sumter, S. C., May 1, 1897. Notice is hereby given that in accordance with an Act of the General Assembly, the books for the registration of all legally qualified voters, and for the issuing of transfers, &c., will be open at the court house, between the hours of 9 o'clock a. m., and 3 o'clock p. m., on the first Monday of each month, and for three successive days, until thirty days before the next general election. Minors who shall become of age during that period of thirty days, shall be entitled to registration before the books are closed, if otherwise qualified.

E. F. BURROWS, Supervisor of Registration. Feb. 1.

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JAMES G. GIBBS, State Land Agent, Columbia, S. C. Nov. 10.